



Inspiring News and Events

from the Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota

When we engage in dialogue with Reggio Emilia, we are called to think critically about the "image of the child" that we hold: what picture of childhood underpins our practice as parents, teachers or community members? The educational project of Reggio Emilia offers an image of a child, each child and all children, as curious, competent and desiring to be in relationship with others. In this way Reggio Emilia constructs a "rich" child, with rich and unknown potential. Believing in a "rich" child, therefore, prompts us to re-consider and acknowledge the richness and unknown potential in the parents and in the teachers as well.

Cassandra Guttenfelder's article, *Our Image of the Child as Capable*, reminds us that as parents and teachers, as citizens, we have an important and powerful voice. When we engage in critical reflection, share documentation and analyze our experiences with others, the experience of childhood and the learning of children become visible. In this way we have the opportunity to speak for those who are not able to speak for themselves.

As we revel in the light and warmth of summer, know that we all play important roles in our communities and our homes. We all play important roles in ALL children's lives.

Wishing you well.

Sincerely,
Lani Shapiro
Editor, *Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota Quarterly Newsletter*

The Power of Reflection

By Eileen Galvin

On March 7, at the Hennepin County Central Minneapolis Library, the Network hosted the annual gathering, **Enter, Encounter, Engage** (EEE) with, Andrea Sisbarro, from Boulder Journey School as the featured speaker. All the participants had the opportunity for reflection, discussion and transformation focused on the work of the Boulder Journey School and reflecting on using video to uncover meaning in children's experience.



In This Issue

- The Power of Reflection
- Our Image of the Child as Capable
- How You Can Volunteer With The Network
- Events, Book Study and Job Opportunities

For more news and events visit us at: www.mnreggio.org and like us on [Facebook!](#)

Newsletter Eds.
Lani Shapiro - Content
Eileen Galvin - Production

Upcoming Events

Our Saturday Gatherings have taken a break for the summer. Look for more information coming in August about the 2015-2016 Gatherings.

Sundays Monthly

Book Study

Book study meets one Sunday a month at Open Book's entry level cafe, 3:00 - 4:30. New participants are welcome. Email Patti at pattiroseoftus@gmail.com for more information.

The next meetings are 8/16, 9/20 and 10/18.

You can also check the calendar at mnreggio.org for dates.

Job Postings

Assistant Teacher

Hearts and Mind Daycare
Ham Lake Location
Part Time (25-30 hrs)

Contact Stephanie at
heartsandmindsdaycare@gmail.com
or call 763-413-7393.

Website for more information:
heartsandmindsdaycare.com

If you have a job that relates to Reggio inspired work, we would like to publish a link to it in this newsletter. Email information to Patti at pattiroseoftus@gmail.com. We will include the posting in our next Quarterly newsletter.

I invited those who attended to select and share words or thoughts that came into their minds when they reflected on their experience of the event. With thanks to those who responded, their thoughts included:

Insightful, Hone, Observation, Skills, Listen, Observe, Wait, Revisit, Dialogue, Learn, Risk, Adventure, Trust, Civic Engagement, Vision, Voice, Scaffolding, Giving, Experience, What? So What? Now What?

Words are so powerful! It isn't really the words though, is it? The power lies in what the words represent, what they call up for us each individually. But that makes words tricky as well, for we have differing experiences, points of view and associations with those words.

For me, experiences at our Gatherings, and at the EEE event, continue to reinforce the idea of observation. As a parent, it is something I struggle with – to observe my children and let *them* discover *their* next steps. Had I been on the other side of my email, I would have submitted the word ***struggle*** and I would have also added the word ***joy***.

Now that I have had the privilege of reading, and reflecting on, all of the words you submitted, I would also offer ***open***. In order to make any of these things happen, we must be open - open to unpredictable outcomes, open to learning what challenges us, open to drawing connections and conclusions we hadn't previously considered, open to ideas and crazy next steps, open to fantasy and harsh realities, open to failure and hurt feelings, open to joy and unexpected insights.

OPEN.

Our Image of the Child as Capable

By Cassandra Guttenfelder

The public municipal system of infant-toddler centers and preschool education for young children has been crafted in Reggio Emilia, Italy, slowly, thoughtfully, and intentionally for more than 50 years. At the heart of that system is an idea: the image of the child. The image of the child in Reggio Emilia is a child who is a protagonist in his or her own experience and learning. Babies are born ready to develop, learn and grow through their interaction with nurturing caregivers and their active exploration of the environment around them. Each child is unique, inquisitive, and capable. This child is a thinker and a doer, a curious, competent young person engaging with the world, rich in potential.

Why is the concept of the image of the child so powerful? Loris

Malaguzzi believed that the image we hold of the child 'orients how you speak, listen to, observe, are in physical relationship to the child.' When

we begin with an image of capable children, we understand that all children are ready to engage with the world on their own terms. The children are shaped by their encounters, which both anchor and propel them. We agree to meet these eager children as they develop - emotionally, socially, physically, cognitively - without judgment. We accept, in fact celebrate, each individual as extraordinary and whole, which allows us to value all children and help them to grow authentically as members of a learning community.

What does this image of the child mean for teachers and caregivers? It means listening and offering. Each child moves forward on his or her own developmental trajectory. Each child has his/her distinct investigations, ideas and wonderings. As Early Childhood practitioners valuing children's inquiries and ideas, we are constantly listening, observing and documenting, using our growing knowledge of the children in our care to craft a meaningful, intentional space for them to explore, experiment, create, synthesize, and come to understand themselves more fully as members of the classroom community and in the world.

Consider how our image of the child can become important, not just in our work with children in our homes and classrooms day to day, but in our hopes for all children. As Governor Dayton and our legislators craft a plan to serve our youngest citizens, let's continue to add our voices and stories of capable, curious children to the discussion. Let's share our experiences caring for young learners to influence policy and insure that whatever choices are made include a strong image of all children.

In Reggio Emilia, Italy the image of the capable child is a core philosophical belief that guides not only the early childhood centers in the city, but has given birth to other civic institutions and initiatives as well. Through the years, work with young children has inspired the creation of ateliers beyond the school setting: Remida Center, City Atelier, Ray of Light, ReggioNarra (for more information, see [Reggio Children](#)).

How might the civic work in Reggio Emilia inspire us to enrich our entire community? We can create events, initiatives, and spaces in our neighborhoods that embrace our cherished belief in play, curiosity, inquiry, and collaboration. We can partner with like-minded organizations to create dialogue and learning opportunities that highlight the strengths of children. We can use social media and other venues to showcase our work and make visible the competency of our youngest learners. Explore this idea for yourself or with your colleagues. Share your thoughts on our Facebook page (Reggio-Inspired Network of Minnesota) or on Twitter (@MNReggioNetwork) or Instagram using the hashtag #MNReggioNetwork and #honoringchildhood.

Our work with children is vital. Our work *on behalf of* children is just as essential. Let's work together to build a strong image of all children.

How You Can Help Volunteer With The Network

We are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that has 501c(3) status. Our Board of Directors is charged with building a supporting infrastructure and determining the Network's strategic direction. The Board raises funds and decides how to allocate resources. Most Board work occurs in committees, where issues are studied, proposals developed and activities implemented.

We have four different committees. **If you are interested in volunteering to help the Network, please email the committee chair of the committee you are interested in (see contacts below).** If you have general questions, or would like to contribute to the Network in another way, please contact Rie Algeo Gilsdorf at rgilsdorf2@comcast.net or Dan Morlock at daniel.morlock@isd623.org Board Co-Chairs.

Skills Sets We Are Looking For

We are looking for a wide range of skills sets to round out our committees. If you don't feel like your skills match the skills below, we would still like to hear from you. The most important skills we need are people who are willing to collaborate, to do some planning up front, jump in and learn as they go.

- Fundraising/grant writing, business, budgeting, data management
- Social media, graphic arts, writing/editing, community organizing
- Project management, event planning, experience with skills assessment
- Knowledge of early childhood and/or K-12 education policy, web research skills, public advocacy, networking & lobbying skills

Our Plans Over The Next Few Years

- Build on the current infrastructure of the Network - improved database, archive, board development etc.,
- Continuously improve resources - website, newsletter, events etc.
- Grow our civic involvement - collect evidence based research to support the Reggio approach, determine how we can better support Reggio-inspired practices trying to get accredited through state sponsored programs (i.e. Parent Aware) etc.

Committees

Resource Development

To develop the diverse sources of finance and material support to sustain the Network

Contact Marty Watson mwatson@dodgenaturecenter.org

Communications

To build relationships, plan communication and continually improve tools

to highlight and elevate the work of the Network.

Contact Lani Shapiro lani.shapiro@gmail.com

Outreach & Growth

To expand the Network and to promote the growth of Reggio-inspired knowledge and practice.

Contact Barb Murphy murph028@umn.edu

Civic Engagement

To advance learning through inquiry and influence education policy by providing information and resources to policy makers, educators and other citizens

Contact Rie Algeo Gilsdorf rgilsdorf2@comcast.net

Contact us at reggioinspiredmn@gmail.com
<http://www.mnreggio.org>

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link:
[Unsubscribe](#)

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

Reggio Inspired Network of Minnesota
4431 Colfax Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55419
US

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

**vertical
response**
A DELUXE COMPANY
Free Email Marketing >>